

GENERAL NOTES.

The Parasitic Jaeger at Bellingham Bay, Washington. — October 28, 1893, I shot, on Bellingham Bay, a Parasitic Jaeger, *Stercorarius parasiticus*, which species, I believe, has not heretofore been reported from this quarter of the Union, or at least from this State. The mounted skin of this specimen is now in my possession. The phase of plumage which it represents may, perhaps, be understood from the following description: Above chiefly dusky, darker on primaries, rectrices and crown, the hind neck paler, the sooty-brown feathers of interscapulars interspersed with feathers which are black broadly tipped with white; black and white bars extend around lower neck and across chest in a broad band; sides coarsely barred with black and white; both under and upper tail coverts contain plain dusky feathers mingled with feathers barred with black and buffish white; belly, throat and chin white; sides of neck whitish finely specked with dusky; small patch of pale buff at extremity of forehead; tarsi and feet black; nasal shield leaden blue. Length, 20 inches; wing, 13; longest tail feathers, 8.50. When killed, the bird, with another of presumably the same species, was vigorously chasing a Bonaparte's Gull. Its companion, which escaped capture, appeared to be of a nearly uniform sooty brown above and below, rather lighter than the upper parts of the one taken. — JOHN M. EDSON, *New Whatcom, Washington.*

Further News of the Gull 'Dick.'—As the migratory movement of a certain American Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus smithsonianus*) called 'Dick' (see Auk, Vol. IX, p. 227, and Vol. X, p. 76) for the year 1893 may be of interest to some of the readers of 'The Auk,' I quote from two letters received, in answer to my enquiries, from Capt. Edward Fogarty of the Brenton Reef Light-ship, stationed off Newport, Rhode Island. The first of these was dated April 10, 1893, and states that the last seen of 'Dick' was on the evening of the 7th inst., just before sundown, at which time the bird received its supper. It would seem that 'Dick' inclined to have company during migration this season, for he brought another Gull with him to jointly partake of the supper provided. When the ship's lights were hoisted for the night both birds departed in company, and no more was seen of them. The second letter was dated October 7, 1893, and informs me that on this date at one o'clock P. M., 'Dick' again appeared at the light-ship for the first time since his departure. In appearance he was ragged and torn and minus tail feathers. He had a voracious appetite, eating as much as a hungry dog. It seemed as though he would never get enough to satisfy him. His arrival in 1892 was on September 28, at five o'clock P. M.—GEO. H. MACKAY, *Nantucket, Mass.*

The Black Tern at Washington, D. C. — September 18, 1893, I shot thirteen Black Terns. Previous to this I am aware of only one recorded instance of its occurrence, one being found dead September 18, 1882. — EDWARD J. BROWN, *Washington, D. C.*

Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis in Connecticut. — On the afternoon of August 29, 1893, after the hard southeast gale of that morning, I found a flock of about forty Black Terns on the Quinnipiack Marshes near here. Possibly this was the same flock that was seen at Milford, Conn., on August 24, during the heavy gale of that date, and reported in 'Forest and Stream' for September 23. — LOUIS B. BISHOP, *New Haven, Conn.*

Olor columbianus in Connecticut. — Thanks to Captain O. N. Brooks, I am enabled to record the capture of a young Whistling Swan at Guilford, Conn., on November 2 or 3, 1893. It was shot off Guilford Harbor by a Mr. Reuben Hill, and, according to Captain Brooks, is the first specimen of this species taken in that vicinity during the last fifty years. — LOUIS B. BISHOP, *New Haven, Conn.*

Note on *Rougetius aldabranus*. — Since describing this species in the 'Proceedings' of the National Museum, Vol. XVI, No. 953, p. 598, I have discovered that it had already been characterized and named by Dr. Gunther in the 'Annals and Magazine of Natural History,' ser. 5, Vol. III, 1879, p. 164, as *Rallus gularis*, var. *aldabrana*. Fortunately, we both selected the same name for our respective specific and subspecific titles.

A series of specimens collected by Dr. Abbott on the neighboring island of Assumption I had, provisionally, referred to *R. gularis*; but on further investigation I find that it is not only distinct from the Madagascar bird, but that the latter cannot be *R. gularis*, the type of which, from Mauritius, is said by Hartlaub (*Die Vögel Madagascars*, p. 338) to have the top and sides of the head and neck olive, like the back, whereas these parts in the Madagascar bird are rich chestnut, like the chest. There would thus appear to be four allied but distinct forms of this genus, as follows:—

1. *Rougetius gularis* (Cuv.), Mauritius.
2. *Rougetius bernieri* Bonap., Madagascar.
3. *Rougetius aldabranus* (Gunth.), Aldabra, and
4. *Rougetius abbotti*, sp. nov., Assumption Island.

The last-named is characterized as follows:—

SP. CHAR. — Similar to *R. bernieri* Bonap., but upper parts very much lighter and grayer, black streaks on back narrower, and size less, the wing especially. Differs from *R. aldabranus* in the streaked back and scapulars.

HAB. — Assumption Island.

Type, No. 128,826, U. S. Nat. Mus., Assumption Island, Sept. 18, 1892; Dr. W. L. Abbott. — ROBERT RIDGWAY, *Washington, D. C.*

Phalaropus lobatus—A Correction.—In 'The Auk,' Vol. IV, page 78, I recorded the *Phalaropus lobatus* as having been captured near Hartford. I find on more critical examination, that it is the *Crymophilus fulicarius*. — WILLARD E. TREAT, *East Hartford, Conn.*